

the ongoing suffering of people who had no access to prostheses or wheelchairs, he founded VNAH. Since then, VNAH has carried out successful projects in multiple provinces and was instrumental in working with the Vietnamese authorities to write Vietnam's disabilities law, the first of its kind in the country.

Ca became a good friend to me and my wife Marcelle and to my staff. We have visited VNAH's projects in Vietnam, which now assist victims of Agent Orange as well as injured survivors of UXO accidents. The difference that Ca and VNAH's superb Vietnamese staff have made in the lives of the severely disabled and their families cannot be adequately described in words. People who lost one or both legs, who were crawling on the ground for years, finally received an artificial limb or wheelchair and their dignity restored. Parents, children, and siblings with cognitive and physical disabilities so severe they cannot speak, walk, sit up, feed, or clean themselves now have better care.

In recent years, Ca has had to cope with his own health challenges due to separate motor vehicle accidents both of which were due entirely to the negligence of other drivers. At one point, his own mobility was limited to a wheelchair. Yet as soon as he was physically able and Vietnam relaxed its COVID restrictions, Ca went back there to explore ways to expand VNAH's activities.

Ca has been an inspiration to me and to countless others in this country and in Vietnam. He overcame immense challenges as a refugee, and when he was financially able, he devoted his life to helping others far less fortunate. Although originally from the south, through sheer perseverance and dedication to helping others, he overcame the suspicions of the authorities in Hanoi. It is in no small measure thanks to Ca Van Tran and VNAH that the Leahy War Victims Fund became what it is today.

As I prepare to retire after 48 years in the Senate, I want other Members of Congress to know about Ca Van Tran. He is an exceptional example of the life-changing difference that one compassionate, dedicated person has made to overcome some of the painful legacies of the war in Vietnam.

RECOGNIZING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD LEARNING

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I rise today to celebrate the 90th anniversary of World Learning, a nonprofit organization based in Brattleboro, VT, that is dedicated to building stronger human connections through people-to-people exchanges, international education, and global development programs.

World Learning is more than Vermont's window to the world; it is its door. Its history is deeply rooted in the Green Mountains of southern Vermont. The organization is guided

by our State's values of tolerance and interest in the world, living a purposeful life through serving others, and building communities by welcoming newcomers with empathy and dignity.

I am proud that World Learning's impact extends well beyond Vermont. World Learning through its School for International Training—SIT—administers more than 90 development programs in over 30 countries, teaching English to refugees, expanding STEM training opportunities, and increasing job opportunities for young adults from all backgrounds. World Learning's youth, academic, and professional exchanges bring over 2,000 emerging leaders annually to the U.S. from nearly 160 countries for degree and nondegree programs and professional development and networking opportunities. These programs build enduring ties between future leaders and their U.S. host communities and place American culture and values front and center.

In 1932, World Learning—at that time known as the Experiment in International Living—established the first program in the country to enable young Americans to study abroad and engage in intercultural communication. Through the Experiment, students first lived in the homes of families from the countries where they studied. The then-radical idea, of the “home stay,” as the Experiment's founder Dr. Donald Watt put it, is how people would “learn to live together by living together.”

In the immediate aftermath of World War II, the Experiment sent young Americans across the Atlantic to Western Europe as peacemakers to assist in rebuilding war-ravaged communities across the continent. These young Americans became our Nation's first generation engaged in international community service and international volunteerism.

At the height of the Cold War, President John F. Kennedy asked young Americans to serve their country in the Peace Corps and build human connections and a greater understanding between nations and people. The Experiment was the inspiration behind the vision of international service by Kennedy and Sargent Shriver, the first Peace Corps Director. Shriver was a participant in the Experiment, traveling to Germany and Austria in 1934, and then leading other youth groups for the organization in 1936 and 1939. In 1964, another prominent innovator, Dr. John A. Wallace, founded SIT, an extension of the Experiment, and directed SIT until 1978. Jack was a good friend whose leadership at SIT built on the Experiment platform with programs that sent thousands of young learners around the world. Over time, World Learning has helped design and launch nearly 70 Peace Corps projects and train volunteers for service in more than 30 countries.

The Experiment also rose to the challenge of supporting the U.S. State Department in the largest refugee train-

ing and resettlement program in history, assisting more than 250,000 South East Asian refugees at processing centers in Thailand and Indonesia. They led skills assessments, English language instruction, and cultural orientation training. They demonstrated once again the organization's steadfast commitment to building human connections, healthy communities, and peace.

That commitment continues today, at World Learning's headquarters in the town of Brattleboro, where they welcome refugees and support their integration into communities around southern Vermont. As the first stop in Vermont for newcomers from Afghanistan, Ukraine, and elsewhere, World Learning brings together staff, faculty, alumni, and neighbors to offer language, cultural orientation, and friendship in a program that is a national model for effective refugee integration.

I have covered a lot of history in these remarks. That is to be expected when one speaks about World Learning and its many contributions over the past 90 years. This is a time when the world needs what World Learning offers and does best. Many of the challenges we face in my State of Vermont are the same challenges seen in towns and provinces in countries around the world, such as climate change, resettling refugees, combatting infectious diseases, protecting democracy, and the list goes on.

I am just one of many Vermonters who takes immense pride in World Learning's history of bringing people together to develop innovative solutions to shared challenges and to recognize our common humanity. I thank World Learning—its staff and faculty, alumni, and participants—for their achievements and important ongoing efforts.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, on December 12, 2022, I missed rollcall vote No. 387, confirmation of Tamika R. Montgomery-Reeves, of Delaware, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit due to my attendance at an event back home in Oregon that required me to fly back on a later flight. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted yea.

An expert in corporate law during her time as a corporate litigator in private practice, Justice Montgomery-Reeves has served as a Delaware State court judge since 2015. She has blazed a trail as the first Black woman to serve on both the Delaware Supreme Court and Delaware Court of Chancery. A jurist who has earned a reputation for fairness, consideration, and consensus-building, Justice Montgomery-Reeves has participated in thousands of decisions and authored more than 300 opinions since joining the bench.

Justice Tamika R. Montgomery-Reeves is imminently qualified and will do an exemplary job for the people